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Growing Highlights

APRIL 2025

APRIL IS FAMILY STRENGTHENING MONTH



Get ready for **#WEARBLUE4KIDS DAY**
Show your support by wearing blue

Friday, April 4!

Dear Families,

April will be a busy month here at the center! We will be offering conferences so please keep an eye out for a sign-up sheets in your child's classroom. If the times do not work for you, please let your child's teacher know and we will make a time that works for both of you. For newer families, we offer formal conferences twice a year in April and October, but we are available anytime throughout the year to talk. We also do informal conferences in January and July. We see most parents in the mornings and evenings and we do try to catch everyone if there is something we feel we need to discuss. Also in April is the Week of the Young Child. This is a special week where we celebrate children! There will be something

special each day the week of April 7th. One of the days is Breakfast with your Child and we will have a family night in May. Hopefully we can do activities and have dinner outside then!

Summer surveys were due March 7th... if anything changes from what you submitted, please let me know! Field trip calendars will come out in May so I will need to finalize class lists before that happens. The weather is so iffy these days, please make sure to keep some extra clothes and outside gear here for your child. The groups have been going for walks lately and the children just love to talk about what they see when they get back.

As always, my door is always open! Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions.

Thanks,

Jane Sweet

Director

jsweet@grandmashouse.org

naeyc
Week of the Young Child™

APRIL 7-11
SENSATIONAL SENSES
A FUN FILLED WEEK CELEBRATING
YOUNG CHILDREN
AND THEIR FAMILIES WITH
HANDS-ON FOCUSES ON THE SENSES;
HEAR, TASTE, SMELL, SEE & FEEL.

MUSIC MONDAY
Music on the playgrounds & in classrooms

TASTY TUESDAY
Breakfast with your child

WORK TOGETHER WEDNESDAY
Planting Flower Projects

ARTSY THURSDAY
Creating Tiles for All to see

FAMILY FRIDAY
PJ Day,
Bring a book & Hug Your Family



| | |
|----|-------------|
| 2 | Ezra D. |
| 7 | Ellie S. |
| 8 | William P. |
| 11 | Ms. Natalie |
| 13 | Ella W. |
| 13 | Luca T. |
| 14 | Norah W. |
| 18 | Audrey B. |
| 21 | Rafael C. |
| 21 | Mariam A. |
| 23 | Charles D. |
| 26 | Rocco A. |
| 27 | Coleman G. |
| 30 | Atlas B. |
| 30 | Ms. Suzanne |

CONGRATULATIONS

on celebrating anniversaries with Grandma's House

Ms. Kelly 12 Years

Save the Date

 Walks for Cancer 
Saturday, May 3rd

CLICK SAVE the DATE!
Registration still open!
Oconomowoc LAKEWALK

Look What We Did!

Busy Town, Infants

Magical Moons, 2's

Communication is a part of our everyday life. We communicate hundreds of times a day in many different ways. Babies' communication, of course, looks different than our pathways of communication. The very first communication that a baby makes is their cry when they are born to let us know they are here! The first vocalizations are cries, grunts, and laughter. With growth and achievements, non-speech-like sounds reduce and babbling and words mimicking sounds develop. Communication and vocalization have been our focus over this past month since we have a younger group of children in our classroom. As parents and caregivers, we are responsible for creating an appropriate environment for language development ([Ivy Panda; Infant Babbling and Social Development](#)). Responding to baby's gestures, their facial expressions, and the sounds that they make helps build their budding skills. Talking to them while feeding them a bottle or changing a diaper are all opportunities built right into the daily routine. Reading and singing together is a time to build a personal relationship along with exposing the baby to vocabulary that we may not use in our everyday lives. Children's communication grows by leaps and bounds the first few years. There is always something 'computing' in that little mind!

As the season changes from cold temperatures and snow to sunshine and warmth, please take a moment to look at the outdoor gear you have here for your baby. When the weather improves, it is much easier to take the babies outside throughout the day and spend time on the

Hello families- we can't believe it is April already. Our class had so much fun in the month of March. We explored Green with St. Patrick's Day and our amazing Pizza Shop. The children loved painting with Green Peppers cut in half to resemble Shamrocks. We also painted with celery sticks; any time we can paint with food they get excited. We also had fun making our yummy Shamrock Shake. The children helped scoop Mint Chocolate Chip ice cream into the blender. We then added some milk. The most exciting part was watching it go around and around in the blender. Most of the children seemed to love it while asking for more, even when it was all gone. Others tried it but said no thank you. While exploring our Pizza unit, the children had fun painting with plastic pizza cutters, creating "shake it up art" by combining paper, paint and beans inside a lidded container. Boy, were they shaking it all around. The children also had fun with our pom pom maze. They dropped pom poms into cardboard tubes that were taped to boards. They got to see them drop from one tube to the next in a zigzag motion. In the month of May, we will be exploring Bugs and Spiders along with Birds. This will be lots of fun since we will be outside more and we can go on a nature hunt trying to find various things. As always, we are here for any questions or concerns. Have a great April.

Ms. Shannon and Ms. Savannah

Pinkalicious, 2.5's

playground or out and about on walks. Having the proper gear makes this time more comfortable for the children. Thank you! Please take a moment to look through your child's cubby and the spare clothes that they have here at Grandma's House. Many have outgrown the size, and the clothing may not be weather appropriate.
Ms. Kristine and Ms. Mo

Very Hungry Caterpillars, Older Infants

Happy April! Over the past month, our friends have gotten a lot of experience with outside time. We are slowly learning to love it, especially on those extra nice days. Thank you for being on top of keeping your child's cubby stocked with extra clothes and outdoor gear! It really helps our day out a lot. Extra outside time means time for putting gross motor skills into use. We've been seeing so much improvement in that area with everyone. Over the next month, we will be learning about sound, bunnies, eggs, and diving into Eric Carle and his beloved books. We will explore musical instruments, fun Spring related process art projects. We will read all the Eric Carle books and tie them into our daily activities. As always, we've been practicing using spoons and drinking from sippy cups. If you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to ask.

Ms. Ruth and Ms. Kelly

Duck and Goose, Toddlers

Wow!! Happy Spring...well, kind of maybe. Hopefully we will get warmer weather soon!! We were busy this month getting lots of outdoor time. In the classroom, we created art projects like painting with bell peppers, painting with glitter, and painting with cookie cutters. We also made a very yummy treat called Shamrock Pie. First, you crush up golden Oreos and the put it in the bottom of your bowl. Then you take vanilla pudding, dye it green, and mix in cool whip to make your middle layer. Then lastly top it off with whipped cream and green sprinkles. It kind of tastes like melted birthday cake but it's delicious!!! We also noticed a leprechaun named Lenny visited our classroom on St. Patrick's Day!! He came to our classroom, made a huge mess and left all his gold coins everywhere while we were playing outside. The children loved it and they collected all of Lenny's coins. He also left a yummy treat while the children were napping to say sorry for making a mess. Our next lesson plan is going focus on all things to do with Spring. Lastly, please make sure you check your child's cubby to make sure they have everything they need. As always reach out if you have any questions.

Ms. Bry

Woodland Animals, 3's

We hope everyone had a great March. We did a lot of different fun things in the classroom this month. We went on a field trip to A Kid at Heart in Germantown and

We really marched into March! We really love marching to songs in our classroom. We like the songs "The Ants Go Marching" and "We Are the Dinosaurs" the most. This month was so much fun exploring the world of author and cartoonist Theodor Seuss Geisel or Dr. Seuss. We read books, explored sensory bins, painted hands, and sang songs related to the books but our favorite activity was making green eggs and ham with white chocolate and pretzels. The month of fun continued with learning about the color green. The class really got into the Finding the Gold Coins sensory bin. We used fine motor skills to find and gather the coins. 5 Little Shamrocks flannel story was a great way to learn about counting numbers. We painted with shamrock shapes, too. You may have noticed that we are using a special cup to help us learn how to drink from an open cup. The cup only slows the milk slightly to help the child learn how to hold and swallow correctly. This skill helps with hand eye coordination, fine motor, correct swallowing, and increased language skills. Learning new skills can be messy but the confidence the child gains is priceless. We encourage you to practice open cups at home, too. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Ms. Andrea & Ms. Bree

Chicka Chicka Boom Booms, 2's

March was the month that finally got a little warmer and we could enjoy more time outside! We enjoyed playing on the

had the best time there. The owner mentioned to me how impressed she was with the children, and it made me so happy. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a little treat and a green out day. We learned about different weather and Spring. We did some super fun art activities with Ms. Michele, loved spending our time reading with Mr. Bob, and of course, loved every minute we spent with Mrs. Ryan.

We focused on the children's ability to serve themselves during mealtimes, which they all did a great job at, and cut with scissors which we are making great progress on.

As the weather starts to warm up, we will begin to go outside in the afternoon.

Please remember to bring your child's outside gear back to school the next day because you never know when they will need their gear during this crazy

Wisconsin season.

We are so excited to see what April brings us and get to enjoy more of the outdoors as the weather warms up.

Ms. Emily, Ms. Kristin and Ms. Lynn

Mushrooms, 4's

Hi families! We have been so busy working on things. We've been working hard on knowing our birthdays and spelling and writing our names. We have done a lesson on Emotions and St. Patrick's Day. Some activities we have done are logging our emotions daily, painting rainbows, and doing self-

playground and taking walks in the buggies whenever possible. In the classroom, we enjoyed drawing and using different art materials and playing with foam soap on the table. We had fun using our sense of touch to explore moon sand and flour in our sensory bins. We danced a lot to our favorite songs and played some instruments, too! We continue to work with the children using our utensils while we eat and using open cups as well. Please continue to help your child with utensils and open cups at home!

Ms. Tricia and Ms. Lindsey

portraits. We will next be moving into Weather and Spring lessons. I am asking families to please keep a sweatshirt or light coat here at school, you know Wisconsin weather is so unpredictable. As always, any questions just ask!

Ms. Chantel

Backyard Fairies, SA

Hello Families! March came and went so fast! I am so ready for these April showers to bring us May flowers! We had so much fun on Spring Break! As you know, we had a spirit week and it was awesome to see everyone dress up. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more, the teachers or the children. We are starting this month finishing up our Spring unit, which will bring us right into the Week of the Young Child and our clouds unit. We are going to make "Cloud Spotters" out of cardboard and walk around Hartland finding different types of clouds. A fun experiment you could do at home is to make a rain cloud in a jar. You'll need a jar, water, shaving cream, a dropper, and food coloring. Fill the jar about $\frac{3}{4}$ with water. Fill the rest of your jar with shaving cream, making sure all of the water is covered. This is your "cloud". Then using your dropper, drop a couple of drops of water over the shaving cream, followed by drops of food coloring over as well. Then, sit and watch it rain colors. We will finish out the month learning about Spring. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or

concerns.

Ms. Desi